

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated May 15, 2008. Claims 1 to 3, 10, 12 to 14 and 16 to 21 are in the application, with Claims 16 to 21 having been newly-added, and with Claims 5, 11 and 15 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and without conceding the correctness of the rejection applied against them. Claims 1, 10 and 12 are the independent claims. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 3, 5 and 10 to 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent 6,507,411 (Nishikawa) in view of U.S. Patent 5,987,227 (Endo). Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

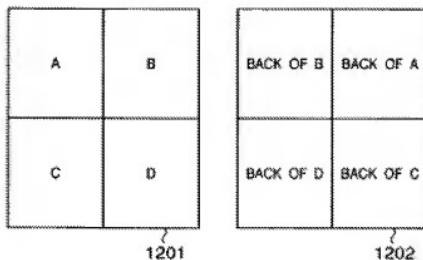
The present invention generally concerns controlling printing based on printing attributes. Printing attributes are set including poster printing to divide a page of print data into a predetermined number of pieces to print over a plurality of media, and double-sided printing to print a first page of print data on a front side of a medium and a second page of print data on a back side of the medium.

According to one aspect of the invention, when both of poster printing and double-sided printing are included in the printing attributes, print data is generated such that a first piece of the first page of the print data is printed on the front side of a first medium and subsequently a first piece of the second page of the print data is printed on the back side of the first medium, before a second piece of the first page is printed on a second medium.

For purposes of illustration, a sample of a double-sided poster is shown in Applicant's Figure 12, reproduced below. Figure 12 depicts both sides of 4 sheets of paper

which comprise the double-sided poster, with side 1201 depicting the front side, and side 1202 depicting the back side (which matches up with the corresponding pieces of front side 1201 when rotated counterclockwise away from the reader).

FIG. 12



In Figure 12, "A" is a first piece of a first page comprising the pieces "A", "B", "C" and "D". According to the above-described features, the piece "A" is printed on the print medium, and the piece "BACK OF A" of the second page is subsequently printed on the back of the same print medium. Thus, the print medium with sides "A" and "BACK OF A" is printed, both sides, before moving on to a second piece of the page on a second medium.

According to another aspect of the invention, the first piece of the first page and the first piece of the second page are alternately printed on the front side and the back side of the medium.

By virtue of this arrangement, it is ordinarily possible to correctly generate print data of pieces of a double-sided poster image. In contrast, without the correct printing process for pieces of the first and second page data, certain images might be improperly divided across the poster, as shown in Applicant's Figure 14.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to a method of controlling printing executed in an information processing apparatus which communicates with a printer. The method includes a setting step of setting printing attributes including poster printing to divide a page of print data into a predetermined number of pieces to print over a plurality of media, and double-sided printing to print a first page of print data on a front side of a medium and a second page of print data on a back side of the medium. The method further includes a generating step of generating print data such that a first piece of the first page of print data is printed on the front side of a first medium and subsequently a first piece of the second page of print data is printed on the back side of the first medium before a second piece of the first page of print data is printed on a second medium, when both of the poster printing and the double-sided printing are included in the printing attributes. The first piece of the first page and the first piece of the second page are alternately printed on the front side and the back side of the first medium.

Independent Claims 10 and 12 are directed to a program and an apparatus, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1.

The applied art is not seen to disclose the features of the present invention, and in particular is not seen to disclose or suggest at least the features of (i) generating print data such that a first piece of a first page of print data is printed on a front side of a first medium and subsequently a first piece of a second page of print data is printed on a back

side of the first medium, before a second piece of the first page is printed on a second medium, and (ii) printing the first piece of the first page and the first piece of the second page alternately on the front side and the back side of the first medium.

As understood by Applicant, Nishikawa is directed to printing an original image as a poster image. The original image is enlarged and divided. A user can designate the manner in which the enlarged image is divided up, and the order in which the divided images are printed. See Nishikawa, Abstract. A double-sided printing function is available as a print option. See Nishikawa, Column 6, lines 45 to 50 and Column 9, lines 5 to 18.

However, Nishikawa's general disclosure of a choosing a double-sided printing option or choosing an order of printing is not seen to correspond to (i) generating print data such that a first piece of a first page of print data is printed on a front side of a first medium and subsequently a first piece of a second page of print data is printed on a back side of the first medium, before a second piece of the first page is printed on a second medium, and (ii) printing the first piece of the first page and the first piece of the second page alternately on the front side and the back side of the first medium.

Endo is not seen to remedy the above-noted deficiencies of Nishikawa. As understood by Applicant, Endo is directed to eliminating avoidable image reading operations by outputting one copy of an original as a sample set while storing the original in image memory. See Endo, Abstract.

However, Endo is not seen to discuss poster printing at all. Moreover, to the extent that Endo discloses double-sided printing, Endo suggests that double-sided printing would be accomplished by printing on the front side of all the pieces of the poster,

and then printing on the back side of all of the pieces of the poster. In particular, Endo states that:

"Making copies in a double sided print format from a multiple page document in a single sided print format using an electric sorting on a copying machine may be an example of ordinary applications of the copying machine...In this case, images of the 2nd, 4th, and 6th pages in this order are transferred to three paper sheets and, then, these three paper sheets are stacked in the double sided print tray. Then, images of the 5th, 3rd, and 1st pages in this order are transferred to the three sheets stacked in the double sided print tray so that the 1st page is placed on top when the three sheets are ejected into the eject tray." Endo, Column 23, lines 24 to 44.

Thus, at best, the combination of Nishikawa and Endo suggests that (1) all pieces of print data corresponding to the front side of the page are first printed on the front sides of all of the sheets, and then (2) all pieces of print data corresponding to the back sides of the page are printed on the back sides of all of the sheets.

Accordingly, the applied art is not seen to disclose or suggest (i) generating print data such that a first piece of a first page of print data is printed on a front side of a first medium and subsequently a first piece of a second page of print data is printed on a back side of the first medium, before a second piece of the first page is printed on a second medium, and (ii) printing the first piece of the first page and the first piece of the second page alternately on the front side and the back side of the first medium.

Therefore, independent Claims 1, 10 and 12 are believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the applied

references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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